

REMARKS

Claim 3 has been amended to delete “or dispersed” from the expression “at least one polymer compound dissolved or dispersed in the aqueous medium.”

Claim 8 has been amended to recite that the “at least one compound capable of interacting with the at least one of dyes represented by formulae (1) to (4)” is selected from the group consisting of a polycationic compound having cationic groups of amines, a polycationic compound having cationic groups of guanidines, a polycationic compound having cationic groups of amidines, a polycationic compound having cationic groups of pyridine hetero groups, a polymer having an amino group in a backbone chain or side chain, a polymer having a guanidino group in a backbone chain or side chain, and a polymer having an amidino group in a backbone chain or side chain. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, on page 32 of the specification.

Claims 9 and 10 have been canceled.

Claims 12 and 13 have been added. Support for claim 12 can be found, for example, on page 159 of the specification. Support for claim 13 can be found, for example, on pages 81 to 84 of the specification.

Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-8 and 11-13 will be pending.

In Paragraph No. 1 of the Action, the Examiner objects to the disclosure because of an informality: On pages 4-15, the Examiner states, Applicant refers to the claims, which is considered improper because there is no guarantee that those claims will issue and that their claim numbers will

be the same as those mentioned in the specification as filed. The Examiner suggests the deletion of the reference to the claims from the specification.

In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, Applicants have deleted the reference to the claims on pages 4-15 of the specification. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

In Paragraph No. 3 of the Action, claims 1 and 2 are rejected on the ground of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-3, 5 and 11-13 of U.S. Patent No. 6,874,882 to Taguchi et al. ("Taguchi '882").

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Applicant submits that the cited claims of Taguchi '882 do not disclose or suggest the use of "at least one of alkylene diols where one alkylene group has at least 3 carbon atoms or their homologues dissolved or dispersed in the aqueous medium" in an ink for an inkjet, as required by present claim 1. Therefore, claims 1 and 2 of the present invention would not be obvious over claims 1-3, 5 and 11-13 of Taguchi '882. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In Paragraph No. 4 of the Action, claims 3, 4, 6 and 7 are rejected on the ground of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-4, 7, 9, 14, 17, 20, 21, 25 and 27 of U.S. Patent No. 6,800,673 to Yamanouchi et al. ("Yamanouchi '673").

Claims 1-4, 7, 9, 14, 17, 20, 21, 25 and 27 of Yamanouchi '673 recite a method of producing an ink for ink jet recording in which colored fine particles are dispersed in an aqueous medium and an ionic group-containing water-insoluble polymer is dispersed in an aqueous medium.

Claim 3 has been amended to delete “or dispersed” from the expression “at least one polymer compound dissolved or dispersed in the aqueous medium.” Thus, in claim 3, and the claims depending therefrom, the polymer compound is dissolved, not dispersed, in the aqueous medium.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 3, 4, 6 and 7 would not be obvious over claims 1-4, 7, 9, 14, 17, 20, 21, 25 or 27 of Yamanouchi ‘673. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In Paragraph No. 5 of the Action, claims 1 and 2 are provisionally rejected on the ground of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1, 2 and 4-19 of copending Application No. 10/809,954 (US 2004/0194659) to Taguchi et al. (“Taguchi ‘954”).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Applicant submits that the cited claims of Taguchi ‘954 do not disclose or suggest the use of “at least one of alkylene diols where one alkylene group has at least 3 carbon atoms or their homologues dissolved or dispersed in the aqueous medium” in an ink for an inkjet, as required by present claim 1. Therefore, claims 1 and 2 of the present invention would not be obvious over claims 1, 2 and 4-19 of Taguchi ‘954. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In Paragraph No. 6 of the Action, claims 1 and 2 are provisionally rejected on the ground of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1 and 12 of copending Application No. 10/671,729 (US 2004/0070654) to Taguchi et al. (“Taguchi ‘729”).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Applicant submits that the cited claims of Taguchi '729 do not disclose or suggest the use of "at least one of alkylene diols where one alkylene group has at least 3 carbon atoms or their homologues dissolved or dispersed in the aqueous medium" in an ink for an inkjet, as required by present claim 1. Therefore, claims 1 and 2 of the present invention would not be obvious over claims 1 and 12 of Taguchi '729. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In Paragraph No. 7 of the Action, claims 1 and 2 are provisionally rejected on the ground of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1 and 12 of copending Application No. 10/645,795 (US 2004/0050291) ("Taguchi '795").

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Applicant submits that the cited claims of Taguchi et al '795 do not disclose or suggest the use of "at least one of alkylene diols where one alkylene group has at least 3 carbon atoms or their homologues dissolved or dispersed in the aqueous medium" in an ink for an inkjet, as required by present claim 1. Therefore, claims 1 and 2 of the present invention would not be obvious over claims 1 and 12 of Taguchi '795. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In Paragraph No. 9 of the Action, claims 3, 4, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Yamanouchi et al (US 2002/0107301) ("Yamanouchi '301).

Yamanouchi '301 discloses a method of producing an ink for ink jet recording in which colored fine particles are dispersed in an aqueous medium and an ionic group-containing water-insoluble polymer is dispersed in an aqueous medium (see paragraphs [0317]-[0320]).

Claim 3 has been amended to delete “or dispersed” from the expression “at least one polymer compound dissolved or dispersed in the aqueous medium.” Thus, in claim 3, and the claims depending therefrom, the polymer compound is dissolved, not dispersed, in the aqueous medium.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 3, 4, 6 and 7 would not be anticipated by Yamanouchi ‘301. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In Paragraph No. 10 of the Action, claims 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Katsuragi et al (US 6,533,406) (“Katsuragi”).

Katsuragi discloses an ink set comprising a first liquid containing a polyvalent metal salt of a polyol phosphate, a liquid medium and optionally a colorant and a second liquid containing a coloring material, such as a dye, that is capable of reacting with the polyvalent metal salt of the polyol phosphate and a liquid medium (abstract).

As noted above, claim 8 has been amended to recite that the “at least one compound capable of interacting with the at least one of dyes represented by formulae (1) to (4)” is selected from the group consisting of a polycationic compound having cationic groups of amines, a polycationic compound having cationic groups of guanidines, a polycationic compound having cationic groups of amidines, a polycationic compound having cationic groups of pyridine hetero groups, a polymer having an amino group in a backbone chain or side chain, a polymer having a guanidino group in a backbone chain or side chain, and a polymer having an amidino group in a backbone chain or side chain.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.

In claim 8, the compound in the second ink that is capable of interacting with at least one of the dyes represented by the claimed formulae (1) to (4), particularly an amine structure-containing compound, is different from the polyvalent metal salt of a polyol phosphate that is capable of reacting in the first liquid in Katsugari.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 8-11 are not anticipated by Katsugari. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In Paragraph No. 11 of the Action, claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Taguchi et al (US 6,874,882) ("Taguchi '882").

Applicant submits herewith a sworn English-language translation of his foreign priority document JP 2003-88360 to perfect his claim to priority and remove Taguchi '882 as prior art relative to claims 1 and 2 of the present application. Taguchi '882 has a U.S. filing date of July 21, 2003, which is later in time than Applicant's priority date of March 27, 2003. Support for claims 1 and 2 of the present application can be found in claims 1 and 2 on pages 1-2 of JP 2003-88360.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the § 102 rejection of claims 1 and 2 based on Taguchi '882.

In Paragraph No. 13 of the Action, claims 3, 4, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by "Yamanouchi et al (US 6,600,673)." [sic, US 6,800,673] ("Yamanouchi '673").

Yamanouchi '673 discloses a method of producing an ink for ink jet recording in which colored fine particles are dispersed in an aqueous medium and an ionic group-containing water-insoluble polymer is dispersed in an aqueous medium (see col. 76, lines 37-58).

Claim 3 has been amended to delete "or dispersed" from the expression "at least one polymer compound dissolved or dispersed in the aqueous medium." Thus, in claim 3, and the claims depending therefrom, the polymer compound is dissolved, not dispersed, in the aqueous medium.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 3, 4, 6 and 7 would not be anticipated by, or obvious over Yamanouchi '673. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In Paragraph No. 14 of the Action, claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Taguchi et al (US 2004/0070654) ("Taguchi '654").

Applicant submits herewith a sworn English-language translation of his foreign priority document JP 2003-88360 to perfect his claim to priority and remove Taguchi '654 as prior art to claims 1 and 2 of the present application. Taguchi '654 has a U.S. filing date of September 29, 2003, which is later in time than Applicant's priority date of March 27, 2003. Support for claims 1 and 2 of the present application can be found in claims 1 and 2 on pages 1-2 of JP 2003-88360.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the § 102 rejection of claims 1 and 2 based on Taguchi '654.

In Paragraph No. 16 of the Action, claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Taguchi et al (US 2004/0050291) ("Taguchi '291").

Applicant submits herewith a sworn English-language translation of his foreign priority document JP 2003-88360 to perfect his claim to priority and remove Taguchi '291 as prior art to claims 1 and 2 of the present application. Taguchi '291 has a U.S. filing date of August 22, 2003, which is later in time than Applicant's priority date of March 27, 2003. Support for claims 1 and 2 of the present application can be found in claims 1 and 2 on pages 1-2 of JP 2003-88360.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the § 102 rejection of claims 1 and 2 based on Taguchi '291.

In Paragraph No. 19 of the Action, claims 3-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Taguchi et al (US 6,874,882) ("Taguchi '882").

Applicant submits herewith a sworn English-language translation of his second foreign priority document JP 2003-89978 to perfect his claim to priority and remove Taguchi '882 as prior art to claims 3-7 of the present application. Taguchi '882 has a U.S. filing date of July 21, 2003, which is later in time than Applicant's second priority date of March 28, 2003. Support for claims 3-7 of the present application can be found in claims 1-5 on pages 1-2 of JP 2003-89978.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the § 103 rejection of claims 3-7 based on Taguchi '882.

In Paragraph No. 21 of the Action, claims 3-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Taguchi et al (US 2004/0070654) ("Taguchi '654").

Applicant submits herewith a sworn English-language translation of his second foreign priority document JP 2003-89978 to perfect his claim to priority and remove Taguchi '654 as

prior art to claims 3-7 of the present application. Taguchi '654 has a U.S. filing date of September 29, 2003, which is later in time than Applicant's second priority date of March 28, 2003. Support for claims 3-7 of the present application can be found in claims 1-5 on pages 1-2 of JP 2003-89978.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the § 103 rejection of claims 3-7 based on Taguchi '654.

In Paragraph No. 23 of the Action, claims 3 and 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Taguchi et al (US 2004/0050291) ("Taguchi '291").

Applicant submits herewith a sworn English-language translation of his second foreign priority document JP 2003-89978 to perfect his claim to priority and remove Taguchi '291 as prior art to claims 3-7 of the present application. Taguchi '291 has a U.S. filing date of August 22, 2003, which is later in time than Applicant's second priority date of March 28, 2003. Support for claims 3-7 of the present application can be found on in claims 1-5 on pages 1-2 of JP 2003-89978.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the § 103 rejection of claims 3-7 based on Taguchi '291.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

U.S. Appln. No.: 10/811,395
Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER



Jennifer R. Leach
Registration No. 54,257

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